

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A muffler comprising:
 - a muffler body defining an expansion room;
 - an upstream pipe, an end portion thereof is opened in the expansion room;
 - a downstream pipe having a first straight pipe portion, a first end portion thereof is opened in the expansion room, a second straight pipe portion and a second end portion thereof is opened outside of the expansion room, and the first straight pipe portion and the second straight pipe portion being joined together by a curved pipe portion; and
 - an opening formed in a side face of the second straight pipe portion of the downstream pipe in the expansion room, the opening being formed in an elongated area extending substantially along a main axis of the downstream pipe,
 - wherein the end portion of the upstream pipe and ~~the first~~ an end portion of the first straight pipe portion of the downstream pipe are opened towards the same direction,
 - wherein the opening in the downstream pipe is positioned in an axial direction only between the end portion of the upstream pipe and ~~the first~~ the end portion of the first straight pipe portion of the downstream pipe, and
 - wherein the elongated area is directionally stretched in a circumferential direction of the downstream pipe and is evenly distributed in a substantial main axis direction of the downstream pipe.
2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The muffler of claim 1, wherein the elongated area is a belt-like area.

4. (Original) The muffler of claim 1, wherein the opening comprises a plurality of small holes formed in the elongated area.

5.-6. (Canceled)

7. (Original) The muffler of claim 1, wherein the opening comprises a slit formed in the elongated area.

8. (Original) The muffler of claim 1, wherein the opening has an opening ratio in a range from 20% to 40%.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) The muffler of claim 3, wherein the opening has an opening ratio in a range from 20% to 40%.

11. (Original) The muffler of claim 1, wherein the opening has an opening ratio of about 30%.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Original) The muffler of claim 3, wherein the opening has an opening ratio of about 30%.

14. (Original) The muffler of claim 4, wherein the small holes are substantially arranged at regular intervals in a main axis direction of the downstream pipe.

15.-16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) The muffler of claim 1, wherein the expansion room of the muffler body is partitioned into a first expansion chamber, a second expansion chamber and a third expansion chamber by a first baffle plate and a second baffle plate.

18. (New) The muffler of claim 17, wherein the opening formed in the side face of the second straight pipe portion opens into the second expansion chamber.

19. (New) The muffler of claim 1, wherein the opening formed in the side face of the second straight pipe portion is the only opening in an outer surface of the downstream pipe.